

The Claims Defining the Invention are as Follows

1. A pest inspection system comprising:

at least one inspection station positioned about a predefined inspection area; and

5 a central administrator,

where, in response to a periodic reminder issued by the central administrator, a person manually inspects each inspection station about the predefined inspection area for signs of pest infestation.

10 2. A pest inspection system according to claim 1, where the central administrator includes at least one pest control professional and the person contacts the at least one pest control professional upon detecting signs of pest infestation, the at least one pest control professional thereafter providing advice to the person on how to deal with the pest infestation.

15 3. A pest inspection system according to claim 2, where the pest control professional advises of additional services provided by the central administrator for dealing with the pest infestation and/or upgraded pest inspection systems provided by the central administrator and, where, if the person decides to obtain such additional services and/or an upgraded pest inspection system, the central administrator applies either a predetermined discount or refund to
20 the cost of obtaining the additional services or upgraded pest inspection system, as appropriate.

25 4. A pest inspection system according to claim 3, where the central administrator applies a further predetermined discount or refund to the cost of obtaining an upgraded pest inspection system if the person gives the original pest inspection system to a third party and notifies the central administrator of the transfer.

5. A pest inspection system according to any preceding claim, where the central administrator stores a predetermined set of details obtained from the person regarding the pest infestation in a database.
- 5 6. A pest inspection system according to claim 5, where the central administrator can perform a geographical analysis of a region based on details stored in the database and, if the geographical analysis predicts a regional pest infestation, the central administrator contacts the owners of other properties in the analysed region informing them of the predicted regional pest infestation.
- 10 7. A pest inspection system according to any preceding claim, where the inspection station comprises a housing having a transparent portion on at least one side thereof, the housing containing a pest attractant or food source, and having openings therein to allow the pest to access the pest attractant or food source, whereby the person can inspect the pest attractant or food source via the transparent portion.
- 15 8. A pest inspection system according to any preceding claim, where each inspection station is spaced from each other inspection site by a distance of between 3 and 4 metres.
- 20 9. A pest inspection system according to any preceding claim, where if the person does not detect signs of pest infestation, the person sends an acknowledgment of the periodic reminder to the central administrator.
10. A pest inspection system according to claim 9 as dependent on claim 5, where details of the acknowledgment are stored in the database and where the central administrator can provide an inspection history report based on details stored in the database to the person on request.
- 25 11. A pest inspection system according to claim 9 or claim 10, where the acknowledgment of the periodic reminder takes one of the following forms; a facsimile; an e-mail; a telephone call; a postal communication; a web-site notice; a Short Message Service message.

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12. A pest inspection system according to claim 11, where the acknowledgment of the periodic reminder takes the form of a web-site notice.
13. A pest inspection system according to any preceding claim, where the predefined area includes a residential premises occupied by the person.
- 5 14. A pest inspection system according to any preceding claim, where the periodic reminder is issued monthly.
- 10 15. A pest inspection system according to any preceding claim, where the periodic reminder takes one of the following forms: a facsimile; an e-mail; a telephone call; a postal communication; a web-site notice; a Short Message Service message.
16. A pest inspection system according to claim 15, where the periodic reminder takes the form of a telephone call.
- 15 17. An inspection station for use in a pest inspection system, comprising a housing having a transparent portion on at least one side thereof, the housing able to receive a pest attractant or food source, and having openings therein to allow a pest to access the area where the pest attractant or food source is able to be received, whereby, the person can inspect any received pest attractant or food source via the transparent portion.
- 20 18. An inspection station according to claim 17, where the housing comprises an open-ended central body and a cap adapted to cover an open end of the central body, at least one portion of the cap being transparent.
19. An inspection station according to claim 18, where the cap has a threaded portion and the central body has a threaded portion at one open end for securely engaging the threaded portion of the cap thereon.

20. An inspection station according to claim 18, where the cap is of slightly smaller size than an open end of the central body, such that the insertion of the cap into the end of the central body securely engages the cap to the central body.
- 5 21. An inspection station according to claim 18, where the cap has a rim around its perimeter and is of slightly greater size than the central body, such that insertion of the cap into the area bounded by the rim securely engages the central body to the cap.
- 10 22. An inspection station according to any one of claims 18 to 21, where the cap further comprises retaining means for retaining any received pest attractant or food source within the central body.
23. An inspection station according to claim 22, where the retaining means is a plurality of inwardly projecting teeth.
- 15 24. An inspection station according to claim 23, where the cap is substantially cylindrical with an open end, and the plurality of inwardly projecting teeth are radially disposed about the wall of the cylinder.
25. An inspection station according to any one of claims 18 to 24, where the open-ended central body has a snap-off flange adjacent one open end thereof.
26. An inspection station according to any one of claims 17 to 25, where the openings are transverse slits.
- 20 27. An inspection station according to any one of claims 17 to 26, where the housing is a cylinder.
- 25 28. A central administrator for use in a pest inspection system comprising at least one inspection station positioned about a predefined inspection area, where the central administrator issues periodic reminders to a person who, in response to the periodic reminders, manually inspects each inspection station about the predefined inspection area for signs of pest infestation.

29. A central administrator according to claim 28, including at least one pest control professional; the person acting to contact the at least one pest control professional upon detecting signs of pest infestation, the at least one pest control professional thereafter providing advice to the person on how to deal with the pest infestation.
30. A central administrator according to claim 29, where the pest control professional advises of additional services provided by the central administrator for dealing with the pest infestation and/or upgraded pest inspection systems provided by the central administrator and, where, if the person decide to obtain such additional services and/or an upgraded pest inspection system, the central administrator applies either a predetermined discount or refund to the cost of obtaining the additional services or upgraded pest inspection system, as appropriate.
31. A central administrator according to claim 30, where the central administrator applies a further predetermined discount or refund to the cost of obtaining an upgraded pest inspection system if the person gives the original pest inspection system to a third party and notifies the central administrator of the transfer.
32. A central administrator according to any one of claims 28 to 31, including a database for storing a predetermined set of details obtained from the person regarding the pest infestation.
33. A central administrator according to claim 32, operable to perform a geographical analysis of a region based on details stored in the database and, if the geographical analysis predicts a regional pest infestation, operable to contact the owners of other properties in the analysed region informing them of the predicted regional pest infestation.
34. A central administrator according to claim 32 or claim 33, operable to receive an acknowledgment from the person where said person does not detect signs of pest infestation and store details of said acknowledgment in the database

and where, upon request of the person, the central administrator is operable to produce and provide an inspection history report based on details stored in the database to the person.

- 5 35. A central administrator according to any one of claims 28 to 34, operable to issue the periodic reminder on a monthly basis.
36. A central administrator according to any one of claims 28 to 35, operable to issue the periodic reminder in one of the following forms: a facsimile, an e-mail; a telephone call; a postal communication; a web-site notice; a Short Message Service message.
- 10 37. A central administrator according to claim 36, operable to issue the periodic reminder in the form of a telephone call.
38. A method of conducting a pest inspection comprising sending a periodic reminder to a person who manually inspects at least one inspection station positioned about a predefined inspection area for signs of pest infestation.
- 15 39. A method of conducting a pest inspection according to claim 38, including the step of installing the at least one inspection station about a predefined inspection area.
- 20 40. A method of conducting a pest inspection according to claim 38 or claim 39, including the steps of receiving a communication from the person on detecting signs of pest infestation and providing advice to the person on how to deal with the pest infestation.
- 25 41. A method of conducting a pest inspection according to claim 40 including the step of advising the person of additional services available for dealing with the pest infestation and/or upgraded pest inspection systems, and, if the person decide to obtain such additional services and/or an upgraded pest inspection system, applying a predetermined discount or a refund to the cost of obtaining the additional services or upgraded pest inspection system, as appropriate.

- 5 42. A method of conducting a pest inspection according to claim 41, including the steps of receiving notification from the person of a transfer of the original pest inspection system to a third party and applying a further predetermined discount or refund to the cost of obtaining an upgraded pest inspection system by the person.
43. A method of conducting a pest inspection according to any one of claims 38 to 42, including the step of storing a predetermined set of details obtained from a person regarding the pest infestation in a database.
- 10 44. A method of conducting a pest inspection according to claim 42, including the steps of performing a geographical analysis of a region based on details stored in the database; and, if the geographical analysis predicts a regional pest infestation, contacting the owners of other properties in the analysed region informing them of the predicted regional pest infestation.
- 15 45. A method of conducting a pest inspection according to claim 39, including the step of spacing each inspection station from each other by a distance of between 3 and 4 metres prior to installation.
46. A method of conducting a pest inspection according to any one of claims 38 to 45, including the step of receiving an acknowledgment of the periodic reminder from the person when the person does not detect signs of pest infestation.
- 20 47. A method of conducting a pest inspection according to claim 46, as dependent on 43, including the steps of storing details of the acknowledgment in the database and providing an inspection history report based on details stored in the database on request of the person.
- 25 48. A pest inspection system substantially as described herein with reference to the drawings.
49. An inspection station substantially as described herein with reference to the drawings.

50. A central administrator substantially as described herein with reference to the drawings.

51. A method of conducting a pest inspection substantially as described herein with reference to the drawings.